

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph that begins at page 2, line 12 of the specification as follows:

Generally, network traffic for a connection between two nodes is carried on a transmission link. Additional links are used to support additional connections. The transmission media for each link may be fiber, copper, or other ~~transmission~~ transmission media. For example, when optical link is used, new fiber lines are used to accommodate additional connections. Figure 1 is an exemplary illustration of multiple fiber connections between two switches. The eight ports in the switch 105 on the left side are connected to the eight ports in the switch 110 on the right side. While the approach of adding more connections and using more ports works, it is expensive. As the demand for bandwidth increase, there will not be any ports left to add new fiber connections.